

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2009

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Amenia Water District

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Public Water Supply ID# NY 1302759

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, The Amenia Water District, issues a report annually describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact NWS, the system operators, at 845-789-1307. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water source is made up of 5 wells located throughout the water district. At each of the well locations the water is treated with chlorine for disinfection purposes, it is then pumped directly into the distribution system. The treated water is stored in a 200,000 gallon storage tank located at Washington Court treatment facility. Our system serves 1000 people through 300 service connections. The total water produced in 2009 was 36 million gallons, with an average monthly use of 3 million gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 99,000 gallons per day. Our highest single day was 138,000 gallons total. The NYSDOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking water sources were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" For a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future. The source water assessment has rated our water source as having an elevated susceptibility to microbiological, nitrates, industrial solvents, and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the residential and agricultural land use in the assessment area, as well as the close proximity of the wells to permitted discharge facilities (industrial commercial facilities that discharge wastewater into the environment and are regulated by the state and/or federal government) and a hazardous substance spill. In addition, the wells draw from fractured bedrock and the overlying soils may not provide adequate protection from contamination. While the source water assessment has rated our wells as being susceptible to microbial, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets all New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contaminations. County and state health departments will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning, and education programs. A copy of

the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting your water supplier or the Dutchess County Health Department.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total Coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, might be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Dutchess County Health Department at 845-486-3404.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected Avg	Unit Measurement	MCL G	Regulatory Limit MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate Well 4-4a	No	3/17/09	5.11	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate Well #5 & 6	No	3/17/09	2.51	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Calcium Well 4a	No	2/16/2006	73.5	mg/l			Naturally occurring
Chloride Well 4a	No	2/16/2006	42	mg/l	250	250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination
Magnesium Well 4a	No	2/16/2006	38.1	mg/l	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring
Manganese Well 4a	No	2/16/2006	0.024	mg/l	0.3	0.3	Naturally occurring
Sodium ³ Well 4a	No	2/16/2006	16.5	mg/l		No designated limits ³	Naturally occurring
Sulfate Well 4a	No	2/16/2006	27	mg/l	250	250	Naturally occurring

Color Well 4a	No	2/16/2006	10	CU	15	15	Naturally occurring
Iron Well 4a	No	2/16/2006	0.408	mg/l	0.3	0.3	
Copper ¹	No	8/20/2008	0.134	mg/l	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead ²	No	8/20/2008	0.004	mg/l	0	0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	No	2007	2.82	mg/l	30	30	Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel Well 6	No	5/21/2009	0.011	mg/l	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium Well 6	No	5/21/2009	0.002	mg/l	10	10	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
TTHM	No	8/20/09	2.6 2.7	ug/l	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHM are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haa5	No	8/20/09	0.0018	mg/l	n/a	0.06	By-product of drinking water disinfections needed to kill harmful organisms.
Barium Well 1 Well 5	No	5/21/2009	0.017 0.009	mg/l	0.15	0.15	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

1 The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, ten samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the 0.237 mg/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested. Copper Range 0.034 to 0.237

2 The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the (include number of samples, e.g. ten samples) samples collected. 10 sites were tested. Lead sampled range was 0.001 to 0.012

3 Water containing more than 20 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

Definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water, MCLs are set as close to the MCLGS as feasible.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health, MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Non Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Milligrams per liter (mg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

Micrograms per liter (µg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

Nanogram per liter (ng/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

Picogram per liter (pg/l): Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion - ppq).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State. As you can see by the table, our system had no violations, but we have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements. Although nitrate was detected below the MCL, it was detected at 5.1 mg/l which is greater than one-half of the MCL. Therefore, we are required to present the following information on nitrate in drinking water. "Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/l is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider."

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2009, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential fire fighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a 10-15 minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.
- Use low flow shower heads and faucets
- Water your lawn sparingly early morning or late evening
- Do only full loads of wash and dishes

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have questions.